

**§ 150B-19.3. Limitation on certain environmental rules.**

(a) An agency authorized to implement and enforce State and federal environmental laws may not adopt a rule for the protection of the environment or natural resources that imposes a more restrictive standard, limitation, or requirement than those imposed by federal law or rule, if a federal law or rule pertaining to the same subject matter has been adopted, unless adoption of the rule is required by one of the subdivisions of this subsection. A rule required by one of the following subdivisions of this subsection shall be subject to the provisions of G.S. 150B-21.3(b1) as if the rule received written objections from 10 or more persons under G.S. 150B-21.3(b2):

- (1) A serious and unforeseen threat to the public health, safety, or welfare.
- (2) An act of the General Assembly or United States Congress that expressly requires the agency to adopt rules.
- (3) A change in federal or State budgetary policy.
- (4) A federal regulation required by an act of the United States Congress to be adopted or administered by the State.
- (5) A court order.

(b) For purposes of this section, "an agency authorized to implement and enforce State and federal environmental laws" means any of the following:

- (1) The Department of Environmental Quality created pursuant to G.S. 143B-279.1.
- (2) The Environmental Management Commission created pursuant to G.S. 143B-282.
- (3) The Coastal Resources Commission established pursuant to G.S. 113A-104.
- (4) The Marine Fisheries Commission created pursuant to G.S. 143B-289.51.
- (5) The Wildlife Resources Commission created pursuant to G.S. 143-240.
- (6) The Commission for Public Health created pursuant to G.S. 130A-29.
- (7) The Sedimentation Control Commission created pursuant to G.S. 143B-298.
- (8) The North Carolina Oil and Gas Commission created pursuant to G.S. 143B-293.1.
- (9) The Pesticide Board created pursuant to G.S. 143-436. (2011-398, s. 2; 2012-143, s. 1(d); 2014-4, s. 4(c); 2014-120, s. 57; 2015-241, s. 14.30(u).)